

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IO-13 OMB-01 EB-08 CPR-01 DEAE-00 SNM-02

AGRE-00 COME-00 ORM-02 DHA-02 AID-05 OES-07

DLOS-09 /106 W

-----063843 171129Z /17

R 170840Z AUG 77

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5215

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PDIP, TH, NZ

SUBJ: VISIT OF NEW ZEALAND PRIME MINISTER MULDOON TO THAILAND

SUMMARY: DURING AUG 8-11 VISIT TO THAILAND, NEW ZEALAND PRIME MINISTER MULDOON MET WITH HIGH-RANKING RTG CIVILIAN OFFICIALS, TRAVELLED TO NORTH TO VIEW KING'S HILLTRIPE PROJECTS, AND DISCUSSED TRADE MATTERS WITH LOCAL FINANCIAL LEADERS. VISIT FIT ITS BILLING AS GOODWILL MISSION AND OPPORTUNITY FOR MULDOON TO GET TO KNOW PRIME MINISTER THANIN AND OTHER THAI LEADERS BETTER. END SUMMARY.

1. NEW ZEALAND PRIME MINISTER MULDOON ACCOMPANIED BY PARTY OF SIX PLUS THREE NEWSMEN VISITED THAILAND AUG 8-11. DURING VISIT HE MET WITH THE KING, PRIME MINISTER THANIN, FOREIGN MINISTER UPPADIT, AND REPRESENTATIVES FROM FINANCIAL MINISTRIES AND INSTITUTIONS. MULDOON WAS ALSO BRIEFED ON SUBJECTS OF TRADE, NARCOTICS, AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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INSURGENCY AND VISITED KING'S OPIUM CROP SUBSTITUTION PROJECT NEAR CHIANG MAI. IN CHIANG MAI, MULDOON ALSO SAW THE MAE SAE INTEGRATED WATERSHED PROJECT WITH VIEW TO NEW ZEALAND'S FINANCING SIMILAR PROJECT IN PHRAE PROVINCE (ALSO IN THE NORTH). UPON DEPARTURE PRIME MINISTER MULDOON HELD PRESS CONFERENCE DURING WHICH HE: PRAISED THAI HOSPITALITY; COMMENDED KING'S PROJECTS WHICH, AS HORTICULTURIST, HE FOUND PERTICULARLY IMPRESSIVE; SAID NEW ZEALAND WAS LOOKING INTO

POSSIBLE AREAS OF JOINT VENTURE WITH THAILAND SUCH AS AGRICULTURE ENGINEERING; ANNOUNCED NEW ZEALAND GOVERNMENT DECISION TO TAKE 420 INDOCHINA REFUGEES; FOUND ATTITUDE OF CAMBODIAN REGIME PUZZLING, PARTICULARLY ITS CONFLICT WITH VIET-NAM; SAID THAT NEW ZEALAND IS SOON TO DECLARE 200 MILE ECONOMIC ZONE, AND THAT, SOMEWHAT TO MULDOON'S ASTONISHMENT, THANIN HAD EXPRESSED INTEREST IN THAI EXPLOITATION OF THE NEW ZEALAND ZONE, A POSSIBILITY WHICH WOULD BE EXPLORED; NOTED HIS SATISFACTION WITH ASEAN SUMMIT AND SAID THAT ALTHOUGH SOME ASEAN MEMBERS HAD EXPERIENCED DISAPPOINTMENT WITH PACE AT WHICH ASEAN IS DEVELOPING, "ONE MUSTN'T BE TOO IMPATIENT, BEARING IN MIND THAT EACH OF THE COUNTRIES HAD CONSIDERABLE DIFFICULTIES WITH ONE OR MORE OF THE OTHERS IN FAIRLY RECENT TIMES." THOSE DIFFICULTIES WERE BEING SUBMERGED--SABAH CLAIM WAS CASE IN POINT-- AND REGIONAL COHESION WAS BEING STRENGTHENED; NOTED THAT "STRANGELY ENOUGH" THAI HAD REQUESTED NO AID. MULDOON SAID HE HAD SET OUT NEW ZEALAND PLANS FOR NEXT FIVE YEARS--MAINLY PROVIDING TECHNICIANS IN AREAS OF NEW ZEALAND EXPERTISE RATHER THAN MASSIVE CAPITAL ASSISTANCE--WHICH THAI EVIDENTLY FOUND ACCEPTABLE; AND SAID HE HAD BEEN REASSURED ABOUT POLICIES OF NEW U.S. ADMINISTRATION DURING TALKS WITH DEPUTY SECRETARY CHRISTOPHER DURING RECENT ANZUS MEETING.

2. NEW ZEALAND EMBOFF, IN RECAP OF VISIT, TOLD US MULDOON'S MISSION HAD BEEN ONE OF GOODWILL, AND IN THAT, VISIT HAD BEEN A SUCCESS. MULDOON LAST VISITED HERE IN 1963 AND PRIOR TO ASEAN SUMMIT, HAD NEVER MET PRIME MINISTER THANIN. NEW ZEALAND OFFICIAL SAID MULDOON HAD BEEN QUITE IMPRESSED WITH THANIN AS HAD NEW ZEALAND EMBASSY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OFFICERS WHO FOUND HIM QUITE AFFABLE AND ARTICULATE. MULDOON HAD ALSO BEEN QUITE TAKEN WITH ROYAL FAMILY AND WAS PARTICULARLY IMPRESSED WHEN QUEEN SIRIKIT TOLD HIM THAT THEIR YOUNGEST DAUGHTER HAD WANTED TO BE A CONCERT PIANIST, BUT AT THE PROMPTING OF HER PARENTS WAS STUDYING SCIENCE IN ORDER TO MAKE A MORE MEANINGFUL CONTRIBUTION TO THAI SOCIETY.

3. IN ADVANCE OF VISIT, MULDOON HAD SPECIFICALLY REQUESTED BRIEFING ON INSURGENCY SITUATION, AND NEW ZEALAND EMBASSY OFFICERS WHO ATTENDED BRIEFING GIVEN BY AIR MARSHAL SIT OF THE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL HAD BEEN AMAZED AT THE NEGATIVE PICTURE SIT HAD PAINTED. (NEW ZEALAND EMBOFF SAID THAT IN PREVIOUS VIP VISITS SUPREME COMMAND HAD PROVIDED BRIEFINGS WHICH HAD BEEN MUCH MORE POSITIVE.) IN SUBSEQUENT CONVERSATIONS WITH PRIME MINISTER MULDOON, HOWEVER, NEW ZEALAND EMBASSY OFFICERS HAD BEEN ABLE TO CONVINCE THEIR PRIME MINISTER THAT THAILAND WAS NOT "CRUMBLING ALL AROUND US." MULDOON NOTED IN DEPARTURE PRESS CONFERENCE THAT THE INSURGENCY COVERED A LARGER AREA THAN HE HAD ANTICIPATED, BUT THAT ITS EFFECTS WERE LESS THAN HE HAD PREVIOUSLY THOUGHT.

4. NEW ZEALAND OFFICIAL SAID MULDOON HAD WANTED ALSO TO MEET WITH DEFENSE MINISTER, AND NEW ZEALAND EMBASSY HAD SUGGESTED CALL ON

GENERAL KRIANGSAK AS WELL, BUT RTG MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS PLANNERS SAID THEY WISHED VISIT TO CONCENTRATE ON MEETINGS WITH CIVILIAN LEADERSHIP. NEW ZEALAND EMBASSY DID NOT, THEREFORE, PUSH FOR MEETINGS WITH LOCAL MILITARY STRONGMEN.

5. ACCORDING TO NEW ZEALAND EMBOFF, POLICE GENERAL CHAWALIT OF THE NARCOTICS SUPPRESSION CENTER PROVIDED A FIRSTCLASS BRIEFING OF THAI ANTI-NARCOTICS EFFORTS WHICH PRIME MINISTER HAD FOUND IMPRESSIVE. (NOTE: MULDOON REQUESTED NARCOTICS BRIEFING AS A RESULT OF HIS CONVERSATION WITH DEPUTY SECRETARY CHRISTOPHER AT ANZUS MEETING.)

6. IN GENERAL, NEW ZEALAND EMBOFF FELT VISIT HAD GONE VERY WELL. SINCE THERE WERE NO ISSUES OF BURNING INTEREST, THAI AND NEW ZEALANDERS HAD AGREED JOINT COMMUNIQUE WAS NOT NECESSARY. RTG HAD LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PUT ON A GOOD SHOW AND MULDOON LEFT THAILAND IMPRESSED BY THAI EFFORTS TO DEAL WITH THEIR SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC PROBLEMS. O'DONOHUE

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Message Attributes

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TAGS: PDIP, TH, NZ, (MULDOON, ROBERT D)
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